

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT:ANTARCTIC TREATY: EIGHTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING

1. ON AUGUST 30, JAMES HEG, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, RECEIVED DIRECT TELEPHONE INQUIRY FROM MR. HAAKON STORHAUG, NORWEGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE, OSLO, WHO SOUGHT U.S. VIEWS ON PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE EIGHTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING FROM APRIL UNTIL AUTUMN 1975 IN ORDER NOT TO CONFLICT WITH LOS CONFERENCE. STORHAUG SAID PROPOSAL MADE BY BELGIUM WHOSE ANTARCTIC EXPERT, ALFRED VAN DER ESSEN, ALSO COVERS LOS. HE CITED AT LEAST ONE OTHER ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTY AS PREFERING EARLIER DATE AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO LOS CONFLICT.

2. CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS NORMALLY ARE HELD AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS, AND NEXT ONE WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE THIS FALL. AT NORWAY'S REQUEST WE AGREED TO DEFER MEETING UNTIL APRIL 1975. FURTHER POSTPONEMENT UNDESIREABLE SINCE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL ISSUES WE EXPECT TO BE DISCUSSED, WHOSE RESOLUTION PROBABLY WILL AFFECT THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF U.S. PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES IN THE 1975-76

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SEASON. THEREFORE, U.S. PREFERS ADHERE TO PRESENT SCHEDULE,

OR, IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, TO CONVENE CONSULTATIVE MEETING AT EARLIER DATE. WE NOTE BELGIUM DOES NOT HAVE CURRENT ANTARCTIC RESEARCH PROGRAM.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM FOREIGN OFFICE THAT ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION WHATEVER TO INFORMAL COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH HAVE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES IN MATTERS SUCH AS THIS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO COMMUNICATE TO THE DEPT. SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGH EMBASSY. INGERSOLL

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